

# **2011 Youth Council Missionary Weekend Reports**

The second Youth Council Missionary weekend was held in Mullartown House, Annalong, from 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2010. The weekend was organised to introduce the youth of the denomination to the challenge of missionary work. The Youth Council was delighted to have the presence of Rev Angel Alvarez, Dr Bill Woods & a number of other ministers over the course of the weekend. Many of the young people present came away saying how they were truly blessed & challenged through the sound biblical instruction received, Christian fellowship & times of prayer. A number of seminars and meetings were organised and brief reports on a few of these are detailed below.



*Community singing before the commencement of a seminar*



*Some of the young people who attended the Missionary Weekend*

## **1. What is the call of God to the mission field?**

The weekend's proceedings began on the Friday evening with Rev. Alvarez looking at the question "What is the call of God to the mission field?" His text was taken from Acts 9:1-16.

In his opening remarks he said that not every Christian will be called to the mission field but emphasised that all are in the Lord's service to some capacity. This service may not be full-time, but all are followers for Christ on a full-time capacity.

Rev. Alvarez referred to Acts 8:4, "they...went everywhere preaching the gospel." Members of the church served God. The Lord uses those people who are willing to go. The Lord definitely called Paul into full-time service (Acts 9:5 & 6) and gave him specific directions to "go to the city..." Through reading God's word we find direction in life. Our attitude must be self-sacrificial and we must seek God in prayer to find out his will because he has promised that he will answer us.

## 2. What is the work of the missionary on the field?

Saturday morning got off to an early start with Rev. Alvarez speaking on “What is the work of the missionary on the field?” He turned to consider Acts 8.

The Work on the missionary field is to:

- (1) **Reach the People** - The missionary must be willing, either to go to the multitude in the city or to the countryside where the ones and twos live. Philip (v 26) was lead to Gaza where there was just one single soul. Nonetheless, if God sends us we must obey him and depend on him to lead us right to these souls, understanding their background and culture. By gently coming near to souls we can wait for the Lord to give opportunity to share our faith.  
Matt 9:35 – Jesus “went about all the cities and villages” where both large crowds and small gatherings would be found.
- (2) **Make disciples of Christ** - The Eunuch needed guidance through God’s word thus we must have a sincere desire to help the lost in opening unto them the scriptures.  
1Pet. 3:15 – “...be ready always to give an answer...” Christ wants his children to be useful followers and true disciples.

Acts 8:8 - “And there was great joy in that city.” Christ is to be ENJOYED BY ALL who devote their lives to him.

## 3. The importance of intercessory prayer for those on the mission field

To finish the Saturday’s seminars, Rev. Alvarez spoke on “The importance of intercessory prayer for those on the mission field.” He turned to Ephesians 6:17-20 and expressed the vitality of prayer for missionaries. He made it clear that all believers have a responsibility to pray, even though we ourselves are not out on the mission field. He explained that intercessory prayer means to pray on the behalf of others and because the Holy Spirit is dwelling in that particular missionary’s heart, we can therefore help them spiritually by offering petitions to God for them. In 1Corinthians 12 we are taught the church is “one body” and “hath many members” in unity, so we must pray for one another.

Rev. Alvarez gave some practical advice as to how we can be encouraged to pray for particular missionaries:

- (1) We can read about them.
- (2) We can email or write to them, showing a genuine interest and reassurance of our prayers.
- (3) We can visit them to understand more fully the extent of the work and what the exact needs are.

Finally, he turned to Matt. 9:37&38 and Matt. 10:1. "The harvest truly is plenteous...Pray...that he will send forth labourers into his harvest...when he had called unto him his twelve disciples...he gave them power..."

The Lord even called some of those into full-time service, who were praying for missionaries.

#### 4. What is the relationship of the missionary to the home church?

Rev David McIlveen started this session by reading Philippians 4:13-17. Paul, writing to the church in Philippi, states in verse 13 that "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me". This point was brought home very much to my own heart. I just thought that even I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. All I need is Christ to strengthen me and each task will be accomplished.

The passage continues with Paul showing his appreciation to the church because they gave him gifts continually, even when he was in Thessalonica. Rev McIlveen went on to say we can encourage and support our missionaries by:

- (1) Doing something very simple such as sending a letter or an email. In doing this we are showing we care. We can write and ask them what do they think of their life as a missionary, and what the differences are between where they are and back home. This makes the missionary feel that they have support back home.
- (2) Praying for our missionaries (holding the ropes). Without prayer a missionary's work would fail. It is the Lord's work and therefore we must pray "Lord bless mightily that missionary and make him/her see many souls won for thee." The Lord has to answer prayer; He said He would (Matt 7:7) and He cannot lie (Titus 1:2).
- (3) We should make an effort to give as the Lord has prospered us. In doing this the missionaries work will go on further and, not only that, we will be blessed in so giving.
- (4) We as youth should in our spare time e.g. summer holidays, go out to a missionary and help in whatever we can (everyone can give out tracts!)

So I have come to a conclusion, everyone can do something no matter what the age. Let it be said to us "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"

#### 5. Our Samaria

Rev David Smith read from Acts 1:8, "...and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." His topic was about spreading the gospel.

We were exhorted to speak to men and women about salvation. C H Spurgeon said that 'he would never let a day go by without telling a soul of the need to get saved.' Rev Smith warned that we will be held to account of how we live our lives, and to how many souls we will tell of Christ.

The focus was mainly on how we "...needs go through Samaria" (John 4:4) and how we need to reach souls surrounding our country in the Irish Republic and Mainland UK. 98% of the population in the Irish Republic are Roman Catholic and much effort must put into reaching these precious souls with the Gospel, especially through preaching. Over the water, in the Mainland, the light is burning out. Rev Smith highlighted the need for more people to go out and reach the lost who are sitting in darkness. The young people were exhorted to reach the unsaved by participating in the Youth Council Summer Outreach trips. It boils down to this, we need to send more from our churches to the Irish Republic and Mainland UK, as well as to the foreign field, because the verse says "...and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

## 6. How to make your fellowship more missionary minded

Rev. Thompson asked each of us the personal question: "Are you worldly minded or are you Heavenly minded". "For as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" Proverbs 23:7. This can equally be applied directly to being missionary minded. Sometimes if we have not had much exposure to missionary work we may not have a burden for it. However I was once told that if you wanted to have a desire for something or indeed to increase your desire for something, whether it's a specific work or a particular person; the best way to receive that burden is to pray for it. As such God has called each and every Christian to pray for His work both home and abroad.

In the Whitefield College of the Bible Rev. Johnston has been teaching us students that even if we do not have a recent prayer letter from a missionary we can still pray for them in a relevant and Biblical manner by praying for the following: (1) For labourers to go. (2) For the missionaries to have opportunities to serve. (3) That the missionaries will be delivered from hardship whether through illness or difficulties (4) That the Word of God will be preached and its "seed" will land on the good and fruit-bearing ground. (5) That you will pray the personal prayer - "Here am I LORD send me, if it is Thy will. I am willing". Quite often those who are praying for God's work will be blessed with a burden for it - and God will then call them into it. If He is going to call you He will do so through the reading and/or preaching of His written Word, the Bible. Are you willing if God calls?

## 7. The mission fields of the 21st Century

"We cannot bring the whole world to Christ, BUT we can bring Christ to the whole world." A rebuking yet encouraging first word from Rev. Thompson.

Rev Thompson went on to give a PowerPoint presentation of the great mission fields of the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He highlighted the majority of the world's unevangelized countries were located in an area known as the 10/40 Window - the rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia approximately between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude.

“Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.” John 4:35-36

There is a great need for people to both sow the seed, telling people for the first time the soul-saving, life-changing gospel of Christ, and also to reap, to lead them to Christ.

In the book of Acts we see God leading Paul to the great city of Corinth, a city well-known for its immoral and wicked lifestyles. Paul could have replied and said ‘LORD this city is full of wicked people, I won’t do much good for Thee there.’ However Paul did not ask, He simply obeyed and God comforted him by promising “Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.” This teaches us today that despite the obvious difficulties we should ‘submit’ to God’s Will, ‘follow His Will’, and ‘believe’ that He will accomplish His work as it is His Will.

This is true for both those who are out in the field serving with the physical work as well as those who are at home serving in other ways. Whether you are at home or on the mission field God still has work for you to do and that work is of the greatest importance and honour – to pray. Every Christian has been called by God to pray first and foremost. Let us not neglect our duty.

## [8. Special Missionary Rally & Morning Service at Annalong FPC](#)

On Saturday 6th November, a Special Missionary Rally took place in Annalong Free Presbyterian Church. The guest speaker was Dr Bill Woods, long-time missionary and leprosy doctor in the Acre State in Brazil. Dr Woods showed the congregation a DVD presentation which was titled, “Magnify the Lord with me.” It had been produced to inform people about his fifty years of work in Brazil.

After the DVD presentation, a question and answer time took place, giving people the opportunity to find out more about Dr Woods’ work with the leprosy patients, his experiences while travelling on the Amazon and his work of presenting people with the Gospel. The meeting was very challenging, and it highlighted the great spiritual and physical needs still present in the Acre State.

On Sunday 7th November, Dr Woods spoke again at the morning service in Annalong FPC. He preached from Acts 16:1-13, focusing on verses 9-12, and his subject was, “The Call of God to the Mission Field.” His three main points were “The Assurance of the Call” (v 10), “The Appeal of the Call” (v 9) and “The Abiding in the City” (v 12). He made it clear that even though we may have concerns or worries about God’s will for our lives, we can be encouraged because God will always fit us for the job He has called us to do.



*Dr Bill Woods & the congregation at the Special Missionary Rally in Annalong FPC*

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